

# Wildlife Diversity News

*A Publication of the Iowa DNR Wildlife Diversity Program*

Volume 11, Issue 3

Summer 2012

## Colonial-nesting Waterbirds on the Mississippi River

On June 27, 2012, Stephen Dinsmore (Iowa State University) and I accompanied Iowa DNR biologists Mike Griffin and Curt Kemmerer and technician Ross Ellingson on a trip that will certainly be an unforgettable experience for me. With captain and veteran river navigator Griffin behind the wheel, we launched our 21-foot flat-bottom boat at 7:00 AM and set out on Pool 13 of the Mississippi River to conduct surveys of waterbird nesting colonies on five different islands. These islands host some of the largest densities of nesting birds to be found anywhere in Iowa, and our goal was to count the number of adults, chicks, and nests on each island. Let the fun begin!

Colonial-nesting waterbirds, as their name implies, gather in large groups called colonies during the nesting season and typically obtain all their food from the water. The large group consists of several different species found all over the world, some of which include shearwaters, albatrosses, pelicans, cormorants, gulls, terns, and the long-legged waders such as herons and egrets. Colonial-nesting waterbirds typically seen in Iowa include the American White Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Cattle Egret, and Ring-billed Gull. Why do birds nest in colonies? While some might think that being so close to your neighbor might cause issues with space and competition, nesting in colonies actually helps safeguard you against predators because you have others to help initiate defense. Some also believe that nesting in colonies allows birds to better find food because adults use the "team" approach

when searching for adequate feeding sites. Despite these advantages during the nesting season, colonial-nesting waterbirds are still of conservation concern, with eight species listed as Federally Endangered in the United States. This illustrates the need to inventory and monitor nesting colonies.

The Iowa waterbird species listed above have been nesting on the islands in Pool 13 of the Mississippi River for several years. Biologists visit the islands annually to conduct surveys of the nesting colonies as a method to



Various waterbird species congregate for nesting on an island in the Mississippi River.  
*Photo by Tyler Harms*

monitor nesting trends, which was our goal for the day. As we approached each of the islands, it was fascinating to see the sky littered with birds as they alarmed our approach and took wing to assess the incoming threat. Other birds took to the water, swimming to a neighboring island to seek refuge. Pelicans, cormorants, herons, and egrets were everywhere! But, if all the adult birds left, what remained on the island? Nests! And what accompanied those nests? Chicks of all species and all sizes! There were clumsy, chubby American White Pelicans struggling to walk around; screaming, hungry Double-crested Cormorant chicks sitting in small stick nests, and goony, tattered Great Egret chicks whose uncoordinated movements

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**Correction** to Volume 11, Issue 2 (Spring 2012): The photo at the bottom of page 8 (*MSIM Goes Volunteer*) is actually an Eastern Hognose Snake, not a Western Hognose Snake.

*Edited by Natalie Randall*

## Diversity Dispatch

### Breaking News in the Wide World of Wildlife

#### New India Law Allows the Shooting of Wildlife Poachers

The state of Maharashtra in India has made it legal for forest guards to shoot animal poachers in a new effort to deter the killing of several endangered species, particularly tigers. Currently, India hosts more than half of the world's total tiger population of 3,200 animals. The practice of poaching is driven by the demand for tiger parts used in traditional Chinese medicines, resulting in substantial black market payments made for these items. So far this year, more tigers have been killed in India by poachers than in all of 2011. In addition to making the shooting of poachers legal, a new fund has been set up to pay informants for details about poaching activities.



Photo by Keith Roper

#### Rebel and Army Fighters in the Congo Allow Gorilla Survey to Proceed

Several families of Mountain Gorillas have been missing in Virunga Park, located in the eastern region of the Democratic Republic of Congo, since fighting between government and rebel groups broke out this past spring. Virunga is considered to be a hotspot for biodiversity, with over half of the world's remaining 790 Mountain Gorillas residing there. Recently, both rebel and army fighters have agreed to allow park rangers back into the rebel-controlled area to search for the missing gorilla families. The ongoing conflict in this region, coupled with expanding human settlement, continues to threaten the gorillas with extinction.



Lonesome George.  
Getty Images

#### Giant Galápagos Tortoise Subspecies Extinct

Known as "Lonesome George", the last known Pinta Island subspecies of Giant Galápagos Tortoise has died from natural causes. He had been housed at the Charles Darwin Research Station for the last 40 years and was estimated to be about 100 years old. The Giant Tortoises of Pinta Island were hunted for food by whalers, explorers, and sailors until only a few remained. Since George's arrival at the research station, many attempts had been made to breed him to another subspecies of Giant Galápagos Tortoise, but these were unsuccessful. George's body will likely be mounted for display in one of the Galápagos museums.

## Colonial-nesting Waterbirds (continued)

usually rendered them on the ground rather than the tree branch on which they attempted to hop. Stick nests made by the cormorants and egrets filled every tree and larger stick nests made by pelicans littered the ground in such high density that you had to watch where you stepped. Trees and other shrubs on the island were devoid of any living vegetation because bird densities were so high that the guano concentrations had killed them. For American White Pelicans, Double-crested Cormorants, and Great Egrets, we counted over 100 nests and nearly 500 chicks total across all five islands. We also observed several Great Blue Heron, Cattle Egret, and Ring-billed Gull nests with chicks. The most exciting

finds of the day, however, were a second record of Herring Gull nesting in Iowa and a first record of Neotropic Cormorant nesting in Iowa, both of which are well outside their normal breeding range.



Great Egret nestlings.  
Photo by Tyler Harms

We returned safely to the boat ramp around 12:00 PM and were all very excited about the findings of the day. Continual monitoring of waterbird nesting colonies is a critical piece of effective conservation and biologists hope to continue monitoring these colonies on the Mississippi River for years to come. We look forward to what next year will bring!

— Tyler Harms  
MSIM Biologist

*Editor's Note: Nesting waterbird colonies are protected by Federal Law. The best way to see these sites is through the USFWS webcam at <http://www.sumriver.org/webcam.html>*





Little Brown Bat  
with White-nose  
Syndrome.

Photo by Alan Hicks

Bats in Iowa face a new threat from a deadly fungus. The fungus, *Geomyces destructans*, was detected on a Big Brown Bat at Maquoketa Caves State Park in June of this year. While this is bad news for Iowa's nine species of bats, the disease associated with this fungus, White-nose Syndrome (WNS), has yet to be detected. The presence of fungus and

## Deadly Bat Fungus Found in Iowa Caves

lack of disease raises many questions about the nature of this epidemic. A close eye will be kept on Iowa's bat population to see how the fungus spreads and whether or not it will cause disease. Of the 21 states affected by the fungus, two other states have experienced a similar phenomenon. The fungus was detected in Oklahoma in 2010 but no signs of WNS have been found, while Missouri detected the fungus in 2010 and remained WNS-free until 2012.

While Maquoketa Caves State Park has reversed a 2009 rule not allowing visitors to enter the caves, they will be taking more precautions to halt the spread of the fungus. Starting this year, all explorers wanting to enter the Maquoketa Caves must attend an informational program on WNS and stopping its spread. For example, the fungus can be spread by contaminated

shoes and other caving equipment, facilitating its transport to other states and countries.

WNS has killed an estimated 7 million bats in the U.S. and Canada since its emergence in 2006. In addition to the simplification of ecosystems, the disappearance of bats poses a major risk to the agriculture industry. Bat Conservation International estimates that American farmers save \$3.7 billion annually through the pest-reduction services provided by bats. While the total impact of this new disease is hard to predict, funding for and research on this topic continues to expand as scientists work to preserve our remaining bat population.

— Bridie Nixon

*Volunteer Wildlife Monitoring Program  
Coordinator*

## See You at the Fair!

The 2012 Iowa State Fair is right around the corner! From August 9<sup>th</sup> through 19<sup>th</sup>, the Wildlife Bureau will be assisting other DNR divisions in providing fun, insightful, and educational opportunities to fairgoers at the Natural Resource pavilion and courtyard, located



Courtyard scene.  
Iowa DNR file photo

west of the Grandstand. To promote our theme, "Take it Outside", there will be many attractions, displays, and presentations encouraging folks to get outdoors to enjoy all that Iowa's natural resources have to offer. The courtyard will host a prairie and butterfly habitat, a pond with live waterfowl and turtles, and Aldo Leopold-style benches for visitors to relax in and enjoy the scenic view, as well as informative presentations given throughout the day. Jim Coffey (DNR Tech II) will debut the World's Largest Birdhouse in the courtyard which, in addition to providing a fun photo opportunity for the kids, will be submitted to the Guinness Book of World Records! Jim, along with the Wild Turkey Federation, will also be assisting kids in assembling their own birdhouses on the last day of the fair. Inside the pavilion, fairgoers will find an aquarium



A young fairgoer learns  
about mountain lions.  
Iowa DNR file photo

with various Iowa fish species, an archery range, multiple interactive displays, and much more. Stop by the Wildlife Bureau display to see several live reptile and amphibian species, and learn about this year's focal wildlife group- dragonflies and damselflies!

For more information or to view the schedule of DNR courtyard activities and presentations, visit

[www.iowadnr.gov](http://www.iowadnr.gov).

—Natalie Randall

*WDP Outreach Assistant*



Photo by Josh Otten

## News From the Frog Pond

Historically, there has been an imaginary division between hunted and non-hunted species, concerning everything from what species to manage and how, to how to pay for the conservation of those species. There are a couple new commercials in Colorado that I would love to adapt for Iowa. They were produced by a group called the Wildlife Council, and the titles of the two commercials are “Hug a Hunter” and “Hug an Angler”. You can watch them at <http://hugahunter.com>.

There may be some folks out there that see these ads as a slight because of the many ways to contribute to the conservation of wildlife in forms of donations other than hunting/fishing licenses. I don’t know the history of the Colorado ads, but I see these commercials as a reminder that we are all in this together. We *are* all connected, to each other, to the land, to all the species on the landscape.

Biologically, there isn’t a big discrepancy between game and non-game species. In Iowa, at least, we don’t usually focus on one species or even one group of species. I’ve been at more than one national meeting where someone from outside Iowa said “well, if Iowa can do [it], any state can do it.” I think it’s

easier for us to be more inclusive (and effective) because we are so small, both in terms of areas to manage for species and people to work for wildlife. While this newsletter is from the DNR Wildlife Diversity staff, all of the Wildlife Bureau employees work towards maintaining all of our species, not just game, not just nongame. States that are bigger (have more public land and larger agencies) might have staff who think, “Well, John Doe down the road will manage for that species, so I don’t have to.” Wildlife Bureau staff know we are all responsible for doing the best we can for every species. I’d like to think that Iowans in general have that philosophy when it comes to wildlife, but perhaps sometimes it’s not so evident due to economic forces.

None of us are naïve enough to believe we can actually manage for everything. Each management action helps something and hurts something.

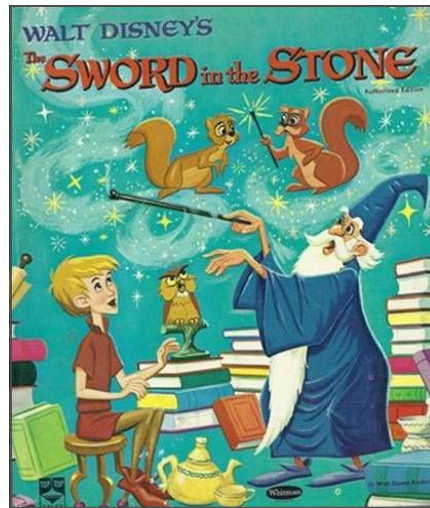
The balance comes in trying to direct those decisions out across the landscape, but that is a topic for another time.....

One of our wildlife management staff sent me a quote this week: “[...] apart from right or wrong: that, indeed, the mere fact of being was the ultimate right. He began to love the land under him with

a fierce longing, not because it was good or bad, but because it was.” This quote is from T.H. White’s The Book of Merlyn about King Arthur’s education and relates to the idea of walking in someone (or something) else’s skin to understand their point of view. Wouldn’t that be an amazing way to learn to value all wildlife? Wouldn’t it be both

thrilling and terrifying, to spend a day as a bat or a deer or an osprey?

— Karen Kinkead  
Wildlife Diversity Program Coordinator



## Iowa Breeding Bird Atlas II: Culminating Toward a Strong Finish



Atlasing in prairie habitat.  
DNR file photo

Volunteers and professional biologists alike are continuing to do very well through year five of Iowa BBA II. The group of participants has risen to 148, and we’ve cumulatively produced over 140,000 bird records during 9,500 BBA field hours. With more than 2,500 of those hours having taken place in 2012, we’re well on our way to making this our most active year of atlasing.

Indeed, birders have thrived during the prolific mid-summer atlasing phase. As of late July, we’ve confirmed nesting for an interesting assortment of species, such as Gadwall, Northern Pintail, Northern Bobwhite, Red-necked Grebe, Least Bittern, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Osprey, Northern Harrier, King Rail, Common Gallinule, American Woodcock, Black Tern, Eastern Whip-poor-will, Eastern Screech-Owl, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Pileated Woodpecker, Least Flycatcher, White-

*Continued on page 5*





Photo courtesy  
of USFWS

## Iowa's Whitetails: Summer Life (Part 1)

*Iowa's whitetail herd is declining in size and is now very near population levels that existed in the mid-to-late 1990s, which is the statewide goal. Currently, about two-thirds of Iowa's counties meet this goal.*

Iowa's deer have traded their warm winter coats for their cooler "summer red" coats of short, fine hair. Although there is less human disturbance during the summer, the deer still remain most active during the hours from dusk to dawn.

Summer is the time in Iowa when the fawns, born in late May through June, begin to be more visible. The spotted newborns spend the first several weeks of life hiding and alone for up to 80% of the day. During this time, does with fawns isolate themselves on small defended territories. The fawns have developed enough

by late July and early August to accompany the doe on a more regular basis. The area utilized by the doe and young now begins to expand.

White-tailed deer fawns begin browsing two to three weeks after they are born and by the time they are five weeks old the weaning process is well underway. The fawns are functionally weaned by 10 weeks of age (late July to early August for the majority) although nursing may be observed until early fall.

In contrast to the fall, summertime bucks are more tolerant of each other and they can frequently be observed travelling in bachelor groups. Their antlers develop rapidly, growing as much as an inch each day and are one of the fastest growing tissues known. The antlers are almost fully developed by early August, with the tissue completing the hardening process (ossification) during this month.

— Tom Litchfield  
State Deer Biologist

*Editor's Note: Tom Litchfield, Iowa DNR deer research biologist in Chariton, has a wealth of knowledge about White-tailed Deer behavioral ecology and will be sharing these insights for each season in a four-part series.*

## Iowa BBA II (continued)

eyed Vireo, Bell's Vireo, Brown Creeper, Veery, Louisiana Waterthrush, Kentucky Warbler, Hooded Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Pine Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Henslow's Sparrow, and Summer Tanager. This diverse tally comprises numerous Species of Greatest Conservation Need, as well as other uncommon/rare Iowa nesters.

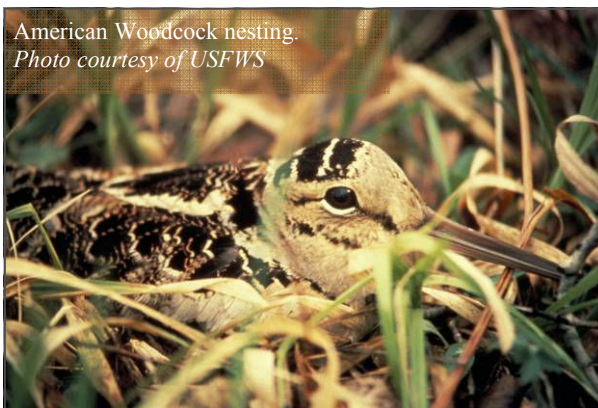
Although June-July is certainly the best time to atlas for the majority of Iowa's birds, we should remain steadfast in August, and even a bit beyond. For example, on BBA II, Yellow-billed Cuckoo has been confirmed by way of nest-building as early as May and by feeding of young through September. A similarly lengthy interval is likely to produce additional information for this species' less prevalent congener, the Black-billed Cuckoo. Furthermore, a number of our songbirds are double-

brooded, thereby allowing us a much broader window to confirm them. I recall discovering a Grasshopper Sparrow nest with eggs in late July in Wright County and adults feeding fledglings in late August in Clay County. Comparable success has been achieved for various songbirds from virtually every habitat and region in Iowa. And when we also consider the later nesters, like American Goldfinch, the closing weeks of summer clearly remain an important part of the atlasing schedule.

As always, I encourage you to atlas often – and to have fun while doing so. For sure, I've been impressed with the wealth of information that everyone has contributed. I've enjoyed receiving atlasing reports via

phone calls, texts, emails, and the Iowa Birds listserv, and I look forward to hearing more from observers as we put an exclamation point on this final year of Iowa BBA II.

—Shane Patterson  
Iowa Breeding Bird Atlas Coordinator



American Woodcock nesting.  
Photo courtesy of USFWS

## The Southern Wings Program – Helping Iowa's Migratory Birds on Their Wintering Grounds

Iowa's Wildlife Diversity Program has engaged in all bird conservation work since about 1980. Much of this effort has been particularly aimed at stemming the tide of dwindling Iowa bird populations and has involved collaboration with a number of other conservation agencies and bird conservation organizations. While more targeted efforts have improved the status for several species, like Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, and Henslow's Sparrow, a large number of other species' populations continue to significantly decline. Within Iowa's Wildlife Action Plan, 85 bird Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) are identified. Fully two-thirds of these species are neotropical migrants, spending six-to-nine months each year at locales ranging from Mexico to the tip of South America. These migrants travel hundreds or even thousands of miles between breeding and wintering grounds each year, so they also depend on the habitats that exist along their migration path. While the bird conservation work being accomplished in each wildlife area, each state, and even within each country is important, it has become obvious to a growing number of people that the challenges facing bird species today go beyond political boundaries. Therefore, today's bird conservation programs and initiatives that function on behalf of birds must transcend political boundaries, as well.

To address growing concerns of dwindling habitat on birds' wintering grounds and to provide a mechanism to facilitate state agency involvement in full lifecycle bird conservation efforts, the Southern Wings Program was initiated in 2009. Iowa was one of the first seven states to join this effort, and there are now 26 states participating. The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA), under the leadership of Deb Hahn, spearheads the Southern Wings Program.



The Saltillo Grasslands in Mexico provide wintering habitat for many of Iowa's grassland birds.  
*Photo courtesy of Southern Wings Program*

The American Bird Conservancy (ABC) and other bird conservation organizations also play key roles in lining up projects in Latin America where state fish and wildlife agencies and other organizations can invest dollars to protect wintering habitat and migration corridor habitat for each state's priority bird species.

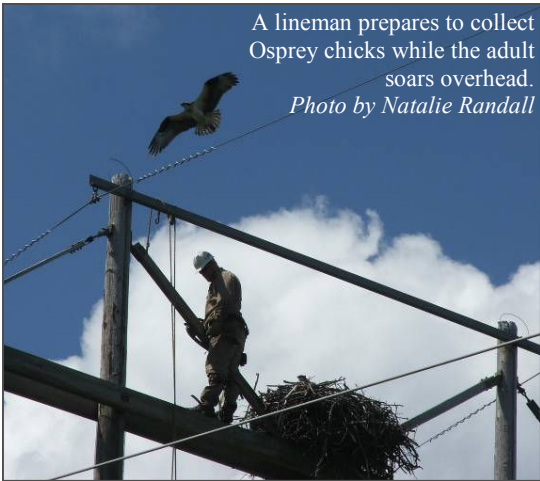
Currently, Iowa has invested a total of \$25,500 (including \$500 from Iowa Audubon) in four different Latin America bird wintering area projects. These projects include the Osa Peninsula in Costa Rica, Sierra Caral Reserve in Guatemala, Saltillo Grasslands in Mexico, and El Tokio Grasslands in northeastern Mexico. Each of these project areas were selected because they provide wintering habitat for select Iowa SGCN birds. Project areas selected the last two years are wintering sites for grassland birds, since, as a group, grassland birds are declining the fastest. In particular, El Tokio Grasslands provides winter habitat for a number of Iowa SGCN species, including Upland Sandpiper, Loggerhead Shrike, Grasshopper Sparrow, and Eastern Meadowlark. This area also provides habitat for many of our more common grassland species.

Iowa Audubon, as already indicated, has recently invested dollars in the Southern Wings Program, and Iowa Ornithologist's Union is in the process of becoming a contributor. The IOU Board of Directors, in response to the positive endorsement of the membership at the 2012 spring meeting, recently issued a challenge to its membership to raise funds for contribution to the Southern Wings Program. While Iowa is better known nationally as a top agricultural state, it is also gaining a reputation for being a leader in instituting effective conservation programs. It is very encouraging to see Iowans show such strong financial support of the Southern Wings Program, as this support provides hope for a brighter future for our neotropical migrants.

If you have questions about the Southern Wings Program, please contact Bruce Ehresman by email ([bruce.ehresman@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:bruce.ehresman@dnr.iowa.gov)) or phone (515-432-2823).

—Bruce Ehresman  
*Wildlife Diversity Avian Ecologist*





A lineman prepares to collect Osprey chicks while the adult soars overhead.  
Photo by Natalie Randall

## Mission: Osprey Collection

their primary food source). Project leader Bill Fraundorf, senior environmental compliance specialist with ALLETE Energy Company, had done aerial surveys of the Osprey nests the previous week to assess those to target for collection. A target nest must have two or more Osprey chicks present, so that one chick can remain in the nest for the parents to experience successful fledging. Bill identified enough nests to fulfill the goal of

relocating nine Osprey chicks to Iowa, and so the collection team headed out early in the morning for the task at hand. Besides Bill, the group included Crystal Tokarczyk (ALLETE environmental coordinator), Kay Neumann (SOAR raptor rehabilitator), Mark Martell (Director of Bird Conservation for Audubon MN), Missy Smith (Warren CCB Naturalist), Doug Gaumer (Warren CCB Conservation Technician), Casey Pederson, and Cole Schwarz (both MN Power linemen).

Upon arriving at a nest site, either Casey or Cole would climb the power pole directly under the Osprey nest. Once at the nest, the lineman would secure a portable pulley system in place, to which a large tote bag was attached. The lineman then placed the chicks in the tote and sent them down to the collection team for processing. After the chicks were on the ground, Mark Martell and Kay Neumann examined each, checking for overall condition and health. All the

chicks from a nest received a USFWS silver leg band, after which one chick was sent back up in the tote, via pulley, to be returned to the nest. The chick(s) destined for Iowa received an additional leg band, colored purple for easier identification. The chick(s) were then placed into kennels in the transport vehicles and kept cool and comfortable with a regular misting of water from a spray bottle.



Osprey chick.  
Photo by Natalie Randall

By now, many regular Wildlife Diversity Newsletter readers are familiar with the story of Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) reintroductions in Iowa. For those that aren't, a few "Cliff Notes" on the subject:

- Since 1997, Osprey chicks >42 days old have been collected from Minnesota and Wisconsin for release in Iowa.
- These young birds are then kept in predator proof "hack towers", where food is provided (without human contact) until ~53 days old, at which point the hack gate is opened.
- The Osprey's fidelity to their release site, especially that of males, should prompt them to return and nest in subsequent years.
- Although gradual, Osprey restoration in Iowa is working! Since 2003, 90 wild Ospreys have been produced in Iowa. So far this summer, 16 nesting Osprey pairs have been documented in the state.

This year, the second week of July was set for the annual collection of Osprey chicks from Minnesota and Wisconsin. I had the opportunity to assist our various partners with the task in Minnesota, which took me up to Deerwood (a town about 20 miles northeast of Brainerd). This area is attractive to Osprey for nesting because of the presence of many tall transmission line poles (which the birds often build their nest on) in close proximity to plentiful wetlands and lakes (which provide a source of fish,

An Osprey chick is examined for overall health.  
Photo by Natalie Randall



The weather cooperated for our collection efforts, and by four o'clock in the afternoon we'd acquired our goal of nine individuals for release in Iowa. Five Osprey chicks were transported by the Warren CCB staff to their hack tower at Annett Nature Center (check out their Osprey blog for more information on how these youngsters hacked out:

[www.warrenccb.org/programs/ospireyblog2012](http://www.warrenccb.org/programs/ospireyblog2012)). Kay Neumann transported the remaining four Osprey chicks to the SOAR rehabilitation facility for temporary holding and subsequent hacking from the newly constructed hack tower at Swan Lake State Park in Carroll County (more about SOAR's role in Osprey reintroductions to Iowa can be found at [www.soarraptors.org](http://www.soarraptors.org)).

To summarize "Mission: Osprey Collection": mission accomplished!

—Natalie Randall  
WDP Outreach Assistant

## Species Spotlight: Blue Corporal Dragonfly (*Ladona deplanata*)

Dragonflies and damselflies are a fascinating group of insects that most people have seen flying around, but not really noticed. They are a relatively diverse group, with over 106 species documented in Iowa! Together they are an important part of our wetland, pond, lake and stream communities.

Recently, Multiple Species Inventory and Monitoring Program technicians discovered a new species of dragonfly for Iowa, the Blue Corporal. Females of this handsome dragonfly species are a brownish-blue color with light stripes on their thorax, while the males are dark blue and have a dark blue thorax, hence the name Blue Corporal. Both genders have a dark wedge at the base of the hind wings.

They are an early-emerging dragonfly, often present by April and May near lakes, ponds and slow-moving streams. Males fly low and often perch on vegetation or on the ground. Females oviposit by flying over the water and tapping the water with their abdomen repeatedly.

Blue Corporals are a southern species with the nearest known records



Blue Corporal Dragonfly.  
Photo by Ryan Rasmussen

from central Missouri. A population was documented at Eldon Wildlife Management Area in Davis County in 2011 and two separate populations were documented in Lee and Des Moines Counties in 2012. All three of these Iowa populations are found in wooded landscapes, specifically around ponds on the woodland edge. Blue Corporals can be very common in the areas where they

are found, but disappear quickly after breeding until the following season.

This species could be seen in other suitable sites within the southeast quarter of Iowa, so keep your eyes open for the Blue Corporal!

— Paul Frese  
Wildlife Diversity Technician II

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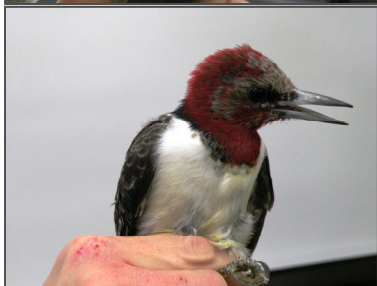
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GRAY TREE FROG | BY KRISTIN FANKHAUSER





## Last Look

This series of photos shows the transition from juvenile to adult plumage of a Red-headed Woodpecker. Natural Resource Educator Austin Lambert captured this individual in a mist net as a juvenile (top photo) in early November 2011 at Springbrook Conservation Education Center. A numbered leg band was affixed to the juvenile bird, which allowed Austin to identify the same individual upon subsequent mist net captures. The second photo was taken mid-winter, at which point much of the gray plumage on the head and body had been replaced. The transformation to adult plumage is nearly complete in the last photo, taken mid-April 2012.

*Photos courtesy of Austin Lambert*

## Events Calendar

### Iowa State Fair

Aug. 9 - 19, Des Moines, IA

Natural Resources Pavilion: 9am-9pm

Courtyard activities: 10am-5pm

### Pelican Festival

Sept. 9: 11am-4pm

Hawkeye Wildlife Area

North Liberty, IA

For more information about this event, call Pat Schlarbaum (712-330-0526)

### Rally for Iowa's Outdoor Legacy

Sept. 28 - 29

Veterans Memorial Auditorium  
Des Moines, IA

Visit [www.RallyForIowaOutdoors.com](http://www.RallyForIowaOutdoors.com) for event schedule and more information

### Breeding Bird Atlas

Oct. 1 : Final day for BBA data collection

Oct. 15: Deadline for BBA data entry

Visit <http://bba.iowabirds.org/> for more information

## *A Publication of the:*

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